

Bridge Crossings Slip Slightly,
But Traffic Trends Up on Some Freeways

- The volume of traffic on Bay Area toll bridges was virtually flat in 2004, registering a slight decline of less than 1 percent from the 2003 tally. Traffic on each of the individual bridges ran very close to year-ago levels.
- Traffic to San Francisco over both the Bay Bridge and Golden Gate Bridge varied by less than 1 percent over 2003 levels; however 2004 traffic volumes on these bridges remained 4 percent and 8 percent lower than in 2000, reflecting overall economic trends. The 1 percent growth in traffic on the Golden Gate Bridge reverses the declining trend observed since 2000.
- Traffic on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge declined 3 percent, which may reflect construction impacts due to the seismic retrofit project (recently completed in 2005).
- Traffic on the Antioch Bridge increased 3 percent between 2003 and 2004 and 26 percent from 2000 to 2004. The increased traffic reflects the continued growth at the outer edge of the region and in adjacent counties. Still, the increase is small in absolute terms, since traffic volume on the Antioch Bridge is the lightest in the region.
- The volume of vehicles on selected freeway segments inched up in 2004, paralleling the regional uptick in commute-hour congestion. At sampled locations in Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma counties, traffic counts rose from a low of 1 percent to a high of 6 percent.
- An exception to this trend was recorded on Interstate 880 in Hayward (Alameda County), where the volume of vehicles declined 3 percent from 2003 figures.
- In the upper North Bay location of Midway Road on Interstate 505, the volume of traffic has grown by a third since 2000.

Average Daily Traffic on Bay Area Toll Bridges (toll direction only), 2000–2004

Bridge	Number of Vehicles					Percent Change	
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2003–2004	2000–2004
1 San Francisco–Oakland Bay	138,200	136,600	137,000	134,700	133,000	–1%	–4%
2 Carquinez	60,400	62,200	64,100	64,000	64,000	0%	+6%
3 Golden Gate	58,100	56,500	54,900	52,700	53,400	+1%	–8%
4 Benicia–Martinez	47,700	49,400	50,800	51,000	50,600	–1%	+6%
5 San Mateo–Hayward	42,600	41,200	42,000	44,700	45,700	+2%	+7%
6 Richmond–San Rafael	34,000	35,400	35,900	35,800	34,800	–3%	+2%
7 Dumbarton	34,200	34,400	33,000	30,500	30,100	–1%	–12%
8 Antioch	5,800	6,500	6,900	7,100	7,300	+3%	+26%
Total All Bridges	421,000	422,200	424,600	420,500	418,900	–0.4%	–0.5%

Sources: Bay Area Toll Authority; Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District

Average Daily Traffic on Bay Area Highways, 2004 (Selected Locations)

